

SECRET

109 -CWAHQ

27 April 1948

SUBJECT: Current Czech CP Line on Eastern Germans

TO: Heidelberg, "KNOBBY"  
ATTN: ( )

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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1. The Czech Communist Party has apparently embarked on a propaganda campaign of rendering the Eastern Zone Germans more palatable to the Czechs by portraying them as good, progressive, anti-capitalist democrats. This may possibly be related to recently-reported Soviet demands for the repatriation of several hundred thousand Germans formerly resident in Czechoslovakia.

2. Regardless of the reasons, continuance of such a line will put the Czech CP in a very vulnerable position due to the persistent and deeply-embedded fear of Germany which exists in the minds of the Czech masses.

3. The following points might be stressed in our future output on this issue:

a. A militantly resurgent Germany will always be a threat to Czechoslovakia, whether it is Communist or Nazi;

b. The Czech Communist Government is in the process of reversing its position on the question of the treatment to be accorded to the Germans still resident in Czechoslovakia. It has already reversed itself, after a similar build-up, on the Hungarian minority whose expulsion the Czech CP was loudly demanding up until 12 months ago. These Hungarians are now apparently being accorded full rights of citizenship.

c. The current propaganda campaign is merely a preliminary to the government's repatriating Germans, at Soviet insistence, to fill manpower gaps in Czech industry. It took a costly and destructive war to rid Czechoslovakia of the Sudeteners and now the Czech people must welcome them back as good "democrats" and accord them the same rights that have been granted the "despicable" Hungarians.

JEB/njh

cc: OPC File (2) OPC Chrono- EDUCATOR Dispatch

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